

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A device for protection of an electrode (4) during resistance welding of workpieces, including a strip (1) placed over the electrode (4), means for holding the strip over the electrode, and means for driving the strip, wherein the strip (1) is comprised of at least two superimposed metal strips (2, 3) made of different materials, said metal strips (2, 3) being exclusively positively connected by rabbeting, ~~gluing,~~ or stamping ~~or welding,~~ such that the strips (2, 3) are displaceable relative to each other.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) A protection device according to claim 1, wherein the metal strip (2) facing the electrode (4) is made from a material that does not adhere to a material of the electrode (4), and the metal strip (3) facing the workpiece is made from a material that does not adhere to a

material of the workpiece.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) A protection device according to claim 1, wherein the metal strip (2) facing the electrode (4) is made from a material selected from the group consisting of ferrous metals and an alloy having its main component being from the group of ferrous metals, and wherein the metal strip (3) facing the workpiece to be welded, is made of copper or a copper alloy.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) A protection device according to claim 1, wherein the metal strip (2, 3) has a melting temperature of above 1000 °C or a conductivity of above 1 m/($\Omega \cdot \text{mm}^2$).

Claims 5-6. (Canceled).

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) A protection device according to claim 1, wherein the metal strips (2, 3) are superimposed in a congruent manner.

Claim 8. (Canceled.)

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A protection device according to claim 8, wherein the metal strips (2, 3) are arranged so as to be displaceable at different speeds.

Claims 10-22: Canceled.